

February 16, 1983

Memo to File:

#7
RE: American Gilsonite
Inspection Trip
Bonanza Operation
ACT/047/010
Uintah County, Utah

On February 8, 1983 Tom Tetting and Cy Young from the Division met Richard Carlbirt from American Gilsonite at the Bonanza office. The purpose of the trip was to complete an inspection of existing facilities and to establish a conceptual idea of the extent of operations. The last inspection of the site area was performed on November 9, 1982 but did not include the mining activities south of the White River. Access is via old highway 45 beyond Evacuation Wash through the ghost towns of Rainbow and Watson. A right hand turn down the east fork of Asphalt Wash cuts through the mining areas associated with the Pride of the West and Harrison veins (see map).

The PW 1 - 4 sites are currently being reclaimed, i.e. shafts have tin covers which will provide the surface for pouring concrete caps this summer. The open vein has been blasted shut in October of 1979 and natural succession of plants has established rabbitbrush, halogeton, russian thistle and another thistle-like plant. Regrading of some of the PW pads should also be done and was recommended to Mr. Carlbirt on-site. The company is also considering either the posting of warning signs at the Pre-act shafts or fencing them. It should be noted that these locations are quite out-of-the-way and no real hazard exists to an unsuspecting public as someone would have to seek out these sites deliberately.

The Harrison Vein sites are further south than the Pride of the West vein. They are subleased to a contractor. Three shafts are currently being developed, numbers 1, 2 and 10. Number 2 was visited and is 2 to 3 acres in size. No problems exist, however, a small hillside has been devastated by a cat-operator seeking experience. Reclamation, i.e. reseeding should be accomplished during 1983.

Back at the main Bonanza operation, site E-14 was visited to observe construction of the sedimentation-filter ponds. Photos were taken.

Maps and plans were checked at the company's office for completeness in order to assess a forthcoming response to the Division's MRP review.

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TNT/lm